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EU-25

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards - Update

Animal Health Certification for Meat Storage in EU 2005

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Report Highlights:

As of January 1, 2005 animal health certification is required for all products that transit the EU immediately or transit after storage in the EU. Those shipments do not need to be accompanied by the public health statements required for products destined to the EU consumer. This means that animal health certification is needed for product intended to go to EU free zones, free warehouse and premises of operators supplying cross border means of sea transport and EU customs warehouses.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2]
[E3]

Concerns have recently been raised about the possibility to store meat in the European Union which is intended for further transit. This possibility will continue to exist provided that the product entered the EU with an animal health certificate.

This requirement was introduced by Directive 2002/99/EC, which is actually the only directive of the food hygiene package that was already adopted in 2002. It provides for the use of animal health certificates from Jan 1, 2005 onwards for all products introduced in the EU, including products that are intended for immediate transit or storage.

Two Commission Decisions were published recently to deal with product that arrived prior to that date and that is currently in storage in the EU. These decisions stipulate that product that came in without an animal health certificate can leave the free zones, free warehouse and premises of operators supplying cross border means of sea transport (2005/92/EC) and EU customs warehouses (2005/93/EC) without animal health certificate until Jan 1, 2006. If these products are not moved out by then they will have to be destroyed.

Visit our website: our website www.useu.be/agri/usda.html provides a broad range of useful information on EU import rules and food laws and allows easy access to USEU reports, trade information and other practical information. More information on food certification of animal products can be found at <http://www.useu.be/agri/certification.html>. More information on food safety, including food hygiene can be found <http://www.useu.be/agri/foodsafety.html>. E-mail: AgUSEUBrussels@usda.gov

Related reports from USEU Brussels:

Report Number	Title	Date Released
E35010	EU Certification Guide - Update	10/18/04
E34015	General Requirements for Veterinary Certificates	05/19/04
These reports can be accessed through our website www.useu.be/agri or through the FAS website http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/attacherep/default.asp .		